

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/630,950

Examiner

Hien Tran

Applicant(s)

HRINEVICH, JOHN

Art Unit

1764

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the interview on 4/5/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-13.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 03 August 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 2/2/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 405.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Hien Tran

Hien Tran
Primary Examiner
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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jimmy L. Funke on 4/5/04.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 3, line 1 "preset" has been changed to --present--; in line 28 --110-- has been inserted after "converter".

On page 4, lines 9 and 30 "124" has been changed to --122--.

IN THE ABSTRACT: the abstract has been amended as follow:

--A weldless flanged catalytic converter includes a body having an exhaust inlet end and an outlet end, and a snorkel tube disposed at one or both the exhaust inlet and outlet ends. The snorkel tube has a first end extending from the converter body and a second, distal end having a weldless flange that is integrally formed from the snorkel tube. A movable flange is disposed about the snorkel tube prior to the formation of the weldless flange. A method for preparing the weldless flanged catalytic converter includes disposing a movable flange (configured with the required tapped holes or other connecting means) over the snorkel tube of the converter. A second, weldless flange is prepared by flanging out a portion of the catalytic converter snorkel tube using appropriate metal forming techniques. In use, the weldless flange is held between the

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movable flange on the snorkel tube and a connecting flange from, for example, the exhaust system. In an alternate embodiment, the weldless flange includes a drawn spherical structure (i.e., ball fitting).--

IN THE CLAIMS:

In claim 1, line 7 --tube-- has been inserted after "snorkel".

In claim 9, line 9 --wherein said movable flange is disposed between said first end of said snorkel tube and said second end of said snorkel tube-- has been inserted after "tube" (second occurrence).

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record does not teach a catalytic converter including a snorkel tube extending from a converter body at a first end of the snorkel tube and having a weldless flange integrally formed at a second end of the snorkel tube, and a movable flange disposed about the snorkel tube between the first end of the snorkel tube and the second end of the snorkel tube.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Kobayashi et al, Mizusawa et al and Kreucher et al are cited for showing state of the art.

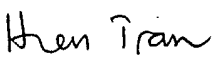
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4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hien Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-1454. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday from 7:30AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Caldarola can be reached on (571) 272-1444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HT


Hien Tran
Primary Examiner
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